

2011

Facts for Principals

NAEP IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES.

- ▶ Elected officials, policymakers, and educators all use NAEP results to develop ways to improve education.
- ▶ NAEP provides a common measure of student achievement across the country.
- ▶ NAEP data can be used to compare and understand the performance of demographic groups within your state, the nation, other states, and select urban districts.
- ▶ Teachers can use sample NAEP questions and scoring guides as a resource for understanding student performance.
- ▶ In 2011, for the first time, NAEP will include a computer-based assessment in writing and a computer-based pilot in mathematics.



For more information about NAEP, visit:
<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>

“The results of NAEP help to ensure that educational progress stays at the forefront of the work that our school is doing in the classroom.”

- Maria P. Costa, Principal, Biscayne Elementary Community School, Miami Beach, Florida

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is the only nationally representative assessment of what our nation's students know and can do in core subjects such as mathematics, reading, science, and writing. The results of NAEP are published as The Nation's Report Card, and are available for the nation, states, and for districts participating in the Trial Urban District Assessment (TUDA).

As principals, you are essential partners in NAEP. You make an important contribution to NAEP by working closely with your students, teachers and staff and explaining why the assessment is important. You can also help by selecting and empowering a NAEP school coordinator, by meeting with students who will participate in the assessment, and by encouraging your students to participate and do their best. When students take part in NAEP and give their best effort, we get the most accurate measure possible of student achievement across the country. The following table depicts which subjects will be assessed in 2011:

The NAEP 2011 Assessment Subjects

Grade	Subject	National Results	State Results	TUDA Results
Grade 4	Mathematics	✓	✓	✓
	Reading	✓	✓	✓
Grade 8	Mathematics	✓	✓	✓
	Reading	✓	✓	✓
	Science	✓	✓	
	Writing	✓		
Grade 12	Economics*			
	Writing	✓		

*Results will not be available for the economics assessment because it will be piloted in 2011.

It's important to know that...

NAEP was first administered in 1969 to measure student achievement nationally. Since the 1970s, long-term trend assessments have been administered to 9-, 13-, and 17-year olds and are currently conducted every 4 years to gauge students' progress in mathematics and reading. In 1990, NAEP was first administered at the state level. Fourth- and eighth-grade students are currently assessed at the national and state levels in mathematics and reading every 2 years, and in other subjects in alternating years. Twelfth-grade students are assessed in a variety of subjects, and results are typically released at the national level only. In 2002, NAEP began TUDA, which measures what students know and can do in select urban districts. In 2011, 21 districts will participate and receive district-level NAEP results.

Special Studies are also conducted periodically. In 2011, American Indian and Alaska Native students selected to participate in the reading and mathematics assessments at grades 4 and 8 will also participate in the National Indian Education Study (NIES) by completing a short survey. NIES describes the condition of education for American Indian and Alaska Native students in the United States.

NAEP is the only measure that allows for valid comparisons of student performance to be made across states and selected urban districts. A state's own assessment is a valuable tool for providing information on student performance in that particular state. Because state assessments vary from state to state, their results cannot be used to compare student performance across the country. Results from NAEP can be compared, however, because the same assessment is given to students in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

NAEP is considered the gold standard of assessments. NAEP is an important assessment because of its high technical quality. The assessment's frameworks are developed with input from state education officials, education experts, teachers, and content specialists from around the country.

NAEP reports on results for different demographic groups, rather than for individual students or schools. NAEP uses a carefully designed sampling process to ensure that the schools and students selected are representative of those schools and students across the United States. To ensure that the sample represents all students in the nation's schools, NAEP allows a broad array of accommodations for students with disabilities and English language learners during the assessment.

NAEP is designed to cause minimal disruption of instruction. It will take approximately 90 to 120 minutes for students to complete NAEP. Students will answer questions in various subject areas, and will also be asked to fill out the student questionnaire, which provides contextual information, such as the amount of reading students do and what types of classes they take. Teachers do not need to prepare their students to take the assessment, but should encourage them to try their best. NAEP staff members administer the assessment and work with your designated NAEP school coordinator to organize assessment activities.

NAEP items can be used as a helpful educational resource in the classroom. Teachers can use actual NAEP items that have been released to see how students' performance compares to national, state, and urban district results on specific items. Released NAEP items come with a scoring guide, sample student responses, and performance data by jurisdiction. All of this information is provided in the NAEP Questions Tool which can be found at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmrlsx/>.

On the NAEP public website, <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>, school staff can also

- ▶ view results for the nation, states and select urban districts,
- ▶ compare results for various demographic groups, and
- ▶ access information designed for teachers, students, and parents.